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BOOK REVIEW

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IN AND OUT OF BOOKS

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Politics

By LEWIS NICHOLS

Mr. Munson said that while
The Bookmailer supplies any-

THE delegates to the Democratic National Convention will meet in Atlantic City this week to nominate their candidate for President—a name which certainly is no dark secret. A number of books have been written about President Johnson, some of which are reviewed today on pages 24 and 25, along with, for good measure, a couple of works by Senator Hubert Humphrey, who may or may not win the designation of Vice-Presidential candidate. With one exception, all are hardcover books and all are issued by local publishers to whom books form a trade and way of life.

That it may be quite a campaign, however, can be seen from another type of book now being circulated, the violently pro-Goldwater or the equally violent anti-Johnson paperbacks. These are published in such places away from Publishers' Row as Derby, Conn.; Florissant, Mo.; Canyon, Tex. The best selling of these at the moment is from Canyon. It is "A Texan Looks at Lyndon," by J. Evetts Haley, a bitter work by a wealthy rancher, former history teacher, normally a Democrat, who had a publishing house lying handy. Others are "A Choice Not an Echo," a pro-Goldwater work by Phyllis Schlafly; "None Dare Call It Treason," pro-Birch Society, by John A. Stormer; "The Inside on LBJ," anti-L.B.J., by Frank L. Kluckhohn.

While all bookstores will order any book a customer requests, the ordering of this campaign literature is usually done directly from the distant publisher, on a retail basis, as a service to an individual customer—and it takes time. Inquiries at such high level sources as the American and New York Area Booksellers Associations turned up the information that the one local organization that could be

called a "specialist" in the conservative field is The Bookmailer, a mail-order house that until recently operated from Manhattan but now has headquarters in Linden, N. J. In the past, the concern has published some books—Connecticut Senator Thomas J. Dodd's "Freedom and Foreign Policy" was one of them—and its head is Lyle H. Munson, a former C.I.A. operative. A decade ago, testimony given by Mr. Munson became a factor in the dismissal from Government service of John Paton Davies Jr.

thing anyone wants to read anywhere, it does ship out a good many conservative books. There has been a big increase in demand for them, although Mr. Munson believes the big surge of the grass-roots conservative movement took place three or four years ago. From the early to mid-fifties there were no conservative bookstores across the country; whereas now, he thinks, there may be perhaps 300 with enough interest that "they tend to specialize" in the field. A Conservative Book Club recently was started in New Rochelle, with, of all things, an unlisted telephone number.